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SOURCE

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SPECIES OF PHLEBOTOMUS WHICH TRANSMITS KALA AZAR IN YUGOSLAVIA

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Literature dealing with the phlebotomus which transmits kala azar in our country is very scanty, and what is available refers mainly to Macedonia and to material collected before the war.

However, the rapid increase of kala azar at the beginning of 1943 and the discovery of a large number of incidences in Serbia by the end of 1945 brought the carrier problem to the attention of our epidemiologists. In 1947, we began a systematic study of the phlebotomus, with the object of discovering the carrier of kala azar in Macedonia, Southern Serbia, and Kosmet. Over 12,000 phlebotomus specimens were collected and examined during the period from 1 July to 1 September. Special care was devoted to examination of these insects. Stables, field closets, deserted buildings, bunkers, grottoes, and similar places, as well as dwellings were searched.

We found eight species of phlebotomus in Macedonia and six in Serbia and Kosmet. These were *Phlebotomus papatasi*, *P. chinensis*, *P. nov. spec.*, *P. perniciosus* var. *tobbi*, *P. parroti*, *P. sergenti* or *P. caucasicus*, and *P. minutus*. The spread and proportion of these species differed according to various areas.

Based on the data at our disposal, we can conclusively state that the following species of phlebotomus carry kala azar in the areas we have investigated to date: *P. major* in Southern Macedonia, *P. chinensis* and *P. nov. sp.* in Northern Macedonia and Serbia south of Vranje, and *P. nov. sp.* in other parts of Serbia.

Tests are in progress on the phlebotomus found in Northern Serbia, Montenegro, and Dalmatia.

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